

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
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R 260930Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7518
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
CINCPAC
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0608

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PEPR PINS MP UR CU AO ET
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW, MAY 26, 1978 - SUMMARY

REF: PORT LOUIS 0584 (DTG 190835Z MAY 78)
PORT LOUIS A-44, MAY 26, 1978

1. WITH PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM'S DEPARTURE ON MAY 19 FOR THE FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT IN PARIS, FINANCE MINISTER RINGADOO BECAME ACTING PRIME MINISTER AND GUIDED 3 NON-CONTROVERSIAL BILLS THROUGH AN UNUSUALLY PEACEFUL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEETING ON MAY 23. THE LEADER OF THE YOUNG DISSIDENTS OF THE LABOR PARTY, HOWEVER, PUT THE GOVERNMENT ON NOTICE THAT HE WANTED NEW ASSURANCES THAT THE PROMISES HIS GROUP HAD EXTRACTED EARLIER FROM RAMGOOLAM WOULD BE CARRIED OUT.

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2. THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) LAUNCHED ITS NEW NEWSPAPER, LE PEUPLE, THIS WEEK TO REPLACE THE FINANCIALLY RUINED LE MILITANT. BESIDES A NEW PRINTING PRESS AND A NEW LOCATION, LE PEUPLE HAS A NEW EDITOR, PRAKASH NEEROHOO. THE MMM'S SECRETARY GENERAL PAUL BERENGER GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE TO REFUTE ALLEGATIONS THAT HIS PARTY HAD LOST ITS

"NEUTRALIST" CREDENTIALS. HE COULD NOT RESIST, HOWEVER, PRAISING THE SOVIET UNION FOR ITS SUPPORT OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA AND JUSTIFIED CUBA'S MILITARY PRESENCE IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA AS NECESSARY TO STOP EXTERNAL AGGRESSION.

3. THE JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO THE MAURICIEN FIRE CONTINUED WITH THE CROSS-EXAMINATION OF THE CENTRAL FIGURE, SHEIK HOSSEN. HIS TESTIMONY WAS RIFE WITH CONTRADICTIONS AND BIZARRE STATEMENTS. DURING THE COURSE OF SEVERAL DAYS OF QUESTIONING, HOSSEN CALLED BERENGER A LIAR, SAID HE WOULD HAVE KILLED BERENGER OR ANY OTHER POLITICAL LEADER FOR NO FEE AT ALL, AND LABELLED AS "ABSOLUTELY FALSE" A CERTIFIED STATEMENT FROM THE BELGIAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE THAT SAID HE HAD COMMITTED SEVERAL ROBBERIES IN BELGIUM AND HAD SERVED PART OF A 10 MONTH JAIL TERM.
BROWN

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